

John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour  
and 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 4193—FY 1999 Interior Appropriations Act**

**H.R. 1689—Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act**

**H.R. 4194—FY 1999 VA/HUD Appropriations Act**



**H.R. 4193—FY 1999 Interior Appropriations Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 4193 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule waives points of order against the bill for containing measures within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee that were not reported by it. It also waives House rules prohibiting unauthorized appropriations, legislative measures in an appropriations bill, and reappropriations, except the measure that provides funding for the NEA. The rule self-executes three amendments—by Mrs. Chenoweth, Mr. Regula, and Mr. Young (AK)/Mr. Miller (CA)—into the base text of the bill and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. In addition, the rule makes in order two specific amendments—by Mrs. Johnson (CT) and Mr. Young (AK)—for the amount of time specified below and waives points of order against them. The rule permits the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 4193 appropriates \$13.4 billion in new FY 1999 budget authority, \$680 million less than last year (mostly due to special funding provided last year for priority land acquisitions) and \$838.8 million less than the president's request. The bill's spending is equal to the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation for discretionary budget authority. Approximately half of the bill's funding, \$6.6 billion, finances Interior Department programs to manage and study the nation's animal, plant, and mineral resources. The balance of the measure's funds support other, non-Interior agencies that

perform related functions. These include the Forest Service, conservation and fossil energy programs run by the Energy Department, and the Indian Health Service, as well as the Smithsonian Institution and similar cultural organizations. Specifically, the measure allocates:

- \* \$1.3 billion for the operation of the National Parks, \$99.3 million more than last year and \$12.5 million more than the president's request;
- \* \$744.8 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service, \$27.7 million less than in FY 1998 and \$73.3 million less than the president's request;
- \* \$852 million for wildland fire management;
- \* \$2.2 billion for the Indian Health Service, \$147.4 million more than in FY 1998 and \$127.8 million more than the president's request;
- \* \$1.7 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, \$10.2 million more than last year and \$130.6 million less than the president's request;
- \* \$80 million for Everglades restoration, an increase of \$20 million;

In addition, the measure includes (1) \$98.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (equal to last year's level); (2) \$110.7 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (equal to the FY 1998 level); (3) \$397.5 million for the Smithsonian (a \$4.8 million decrease); (4) \$64.2 million for the National Gallery of Art (a \$2.2 million increase); (5) \$21.2 million for the Kennedy Center (an \$812,000 increase); and (6) \$31.7 million for the Holocaust Museum (equal to the FY 1998 level). Finally, the bill eliminates the timber purchaser credit program.

The rule self-executes (i.e., incorporates into the base text of the bill upon passage of the rule) the following three amendments into the bill. Specifically, they include:

- \* an amendment by **Mrs. Chenoweth** to increase funding for wildland fire management by \$67 million and offset the increase by decreasing funding for the National Forest System account by an equal amount;
- \* an amendment by **Mr. Young (AK) and Mr. Miller (CA)** to extend the Medicare and Medicaid Direct Billing demonstration program that is authorized by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act for two years; and
- \* an amendment by **Mr. Regula** to clarify that the roads and trails fund, when used for forest health enhancement, may not be used to replace salvage sale funds and not exempt any project from environmental law.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

**Amendments:** The rule makes in order two specific amendments—by Mrs. Johnson (CT) and Mr. Young (AK)—debatable for the amount of time specified below. At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following other amendments to H.R. 4193:

**Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Herger, and Mrs. Capps** may offer an amendment to strike the provision in the bill that extends the recreational fee demonstration program for another two years. The program allows parks and public lands to collect additional fees and retain 80 percent for on-site operational enhancements and critical maintenance; the remaining 20 percent is spent at other units. The authors of the amendment contend that the program created a host of new unpopular fees—new trails fees, entrance fees, and other user fees—and that there has not been adequate congressional oversight or a system-wide audit of the program to ensure that collected fees are being used for their intended purpose. However, opponents of the amendment argue that the program, in its relatively early stage of development, has already been a successful tool that funds a critical backlog of maintenance projects at national parks and other public lands. *Staff Contact: Jeff Stier (DeFazio), x5-6416*

**Mrs. Furse** may offer one of two amendments (#7 or #10) to reduce funding available for timber sales management by \$80.5 million (the bill currently provides \$210.7 million). In exchange, the amendment increases funding for watershed management by \$20 million (the bill currently provides \$148 million) and recreation management by \$60.5 million (the bill currently allocates \$27.2 million).

The sponsor of the amendment argues that—according to the Forest Service’s own 1997 Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System—59 national forests lost money on commercial timber sales that amounted to \$61.4 million, with an additional \$19.1 million in overhead costs. In addition, they argue that the amendment by no means eliminates the federal timber program, but simply reallocates just eight percent of the nearly \$1 billion in the Forest Service budget available for logging and related activities. However, opponents contend that the amendment breaks the good-faith compromise agreed to by Republicans and supported by some Democrats that eliminates the Timber Purchaser Credit Program. In addition, they argue that the amendment will further threaten families in rural communities who depend on federal forests and tie the hands of local managers to eliminate forest health risks and protect watershed and habitat. *Staff Contact: Melane Stanley, x5-0855*

**Mrs. Furse** may offer one of three amendments (#8, #9, or #11) to reduce the funding available for timber sales management by \$80.5 million (the bill currently provides \$210.7 million). In exchange, the amendment increases funding for watershed management by \$40 million (the bill currently provides \$148 million) and recreation management by \$40.5 million (the bill currently allocates \$27.2 million). *Staff Contact: Melane Stanley, x5-0855*

**Mr. Gallegly** may offer an amendment (#12) to exempt any individual who resides within 20 miles from a national forest entrance from having to buy the “adventure pass,” which requires individuals to pay a \$5 fee each time they visit a forest, or \$30 for an annual pass. The sponsor argues that the fee is unfair for individuals who live near and frequently visit a national forest. *Staff Contact: Teddy Eynon, x5-5811*

**Mr. Gilchrest** may offer one or two amendments to strike and/or modify the provision in the bill that excludes 36 acres in Florida from the Coastal Barrier Resources System. Specifically, the amendments:

- \* strike the language removing these areas from the system and instead extend the grace period during which landowners in the system may be eligible to purchase federal flood insurance. Eligible structures include those that were standing before

either October 1, 1983, or November 16, 1990, depending on certain conditions; and/or

- \* strike the language removing these areas from the system.

Barrier islands, which provide a buffer zone between the ocean and the mainland, are frequently subject to hurricanes, flooding, and shifting coastlines. These areas represent prime real estate and have been developed heavily in many cases, which has often required large amounts of federal assistance in providing disaster relief, flood insurance, beach stabilization, and road construction. The 1982 Coastal Barrier Resources Act was designed to limit development of coastal barrier islands by limiting federal involvement in new development projects. The 1982 law provided a one-year grace period for purchasing federal flood insurance for structures within the system. In 1990, the law was amended and the system expanded, but no grace period was provided. The committee report states that the provision was included in the 1996 Omnibus Parks Act but was never implemented because of a technicality. *Staff Contact: Erika Feller, x5-5311*

**Mr. Gutierrez** may offer an amendment (#1) to require the Agriculture and Energy Secretaries to coordinate their energy efficiency programs in urban areas. Specifically, the secretaries must (1) develop a comprehensive action plan that details how Agriculture and Energy programs can be integrated in urban communities to achieve common goals; (2) actively pursue opportunities to coordinate program functions in urban communities; (3) target specific urban communities where energy efficiency and forestry programs can be integrated effectively; and (4) work with state and local governmental entities, private sector partners, and non-profit organizations. Finally, the secretaries must submit annual reports to Congress detailing the progress made to achieve these goals. *Staff Contact: Mark Fine, x5-8203*

**Mr. Gutierrez** may offer one of two amendments (#13 or #14) to increase funding for the Forest Service by \$1 million to eradicate the infestation of the Asian Longhorn Beetle in Chicago Area trees and reduce funding for the BLM's land and resources management account by an equal amount. *Staff Contact: Mark Fine, x5-8203*

**Mr. Hinchey** may offer an amendment to strike the requirement in the bill that the Agriculture Secretary grant a 250-foot-wide easement through the Chugach National Forest in Alaska to build "public roads and related facilities." The bill currently does not waive environmental requirements with respect to actual road construction. The United States signed an agreement in 1982 promising a group of Alaska Natives (the "Chugach Natives") road access to Native-owned lands in the Chugach National Forest. This road access is an essential part of settling their decades old Native American land claims. Proponents of the amendment contend that the federal government has delayed granting them the easement needed for the road access by throwing up bureaucratic hurdles for years and that the amendment will finally honor the government's promise made to the Chugach Natives 16 years ago. However, opponents argue that the road may cause environmental damage and that environmental studies are currently underway to evaluate the proposal. *Staff Contact: Chris Arthur, x5-6335*

**Mrs. Johnson (CT)** may offer an amendment, debatable for 30 minutes, to restore the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding level to its FY 1998 level of \$98 million (the bill currently provides no funding). *Staff Contact: Jeff Onizuk, x5-4476*

**Mr. McGovern** may offer an amendment to increase the bill's funding for National Park Service land acquisition and state assistance by \$30 million (the bill provides \$69 million). **Contact: x5-6101**

**Mr. Miller (CA)** may offer an amendment (#16) to prohibit funds in the bill from being used to construct new roads in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. The sponsor of the amendment contends that the Tongass logging program lost more money than any other national forest in the country and that the agency continues to build roads there. **Contact: x6-2311**

**Mr. Miller (CA)** may offer an amendment (#15) to prohibit the use of certain trust fund money—from the Knutson-Vandenberg (KV) reforestation fund—for overhead expenses. The bill currently limits the amount the agency may spend from the KV fund to 25 percent for indirect support activities. However, the sponsor argues that the language authorizes the agency to do something (i.e., spend money on overhead expenses) that is not allowed under current law. **Contact: x6-2311**

**Mr. Miller (CA)** may offer an amendment to fund the president's request of \$2 million for the Urban Park and Recreation Fund (the bill provides no funding). The program (which has not been funded each of the last two years) is a matching grant program that assists local governments in rehabilitating playgrounds, recreation centers, parks, tennis and basketball courts, and swimming pools in urban areas. **Contact: x6-2311**

**Mr. Pappas** may offer an amendment (#17) to increase funding for National Park Service land acquisition and state assistance by \$50 million (the bill currently provides \$69 million) and offset the increase by reducing funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$25 million. **Contact: x5-5801**

**Mr. Parker** may offer an amendment (#18) to strike a provision in the bill that directs the Indian Health Service (IHS) to allocate contract support costs funding on a pro rata basis to all tribal contractors. The sponsor contends that the amendment simply retains current law and eliminates the poorly crafted "fix" in the bill to the problem of unfunded statutory contractual obligations of the IHS. **Staff Contact: Scot Malvaney, x5-5865**

**Mr. Riggs** may offer one of three amendments (#3, #4, or #5) to revoke the \$250 million in federal funds appropriated in last year's Interior Appropriations Act (*P.L. 105-83*) to acquire Headwaters Forest in Northern California, if the state of California does not come up with its \$130 million cost-share contribution by October 1, 1998. Specifically, the amendments:

- \* stipulate (#3) that if the state of California does not meet its cost-share obligation, the \$250 million in federal funds will instead be redirected to maintain and improve National Park System units. In addition, \$50 million of the available \$250 million would be allocated to maintain and improve civil war sites at National Park System units;
- \* prohibit (#4) funds in the bill from be used to acquire the Headwaters Forest unless the state of California funds its \$130 million cost-share by October 1, 1998; and
- \* simply prohibit (#5) funds in the bill from being used to acquire the Headwaters Forest in Northern California.

The FY 1998 Interior bill included a number of requirements that must be met by March 1, 1999. While Governor Wilson has requested the \$130 million to fund California's cost-share obligation, the sponsor of the amendment contends that the state legislature is unnecessarily holding up action on the measure over partisan politics. **Staff Contact: Mark Davis, x5-3311**

**Mr. Royce** may offer an amendment to reduce funding for the Energy Department's fossil fuel research and development activities by \$30.6 million (the bill currently provides \$320.6 million). The intent of the amendment is to phase out the program over a five-year period using the FY 1998 appropriation (\$362.4 million) as the baseline. The sponsor believes that taxpayers should not be required to subsidize a private industry that is much better suited to identify and target commercially-viable technologies. **Staff Contact: Shawn McBurney, x5-4111**

**Messrs. Sanders, Lewis (KY), Oberstar, Cannon, and Stupak** may offer an amendment (#6) to increase payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) by \$20 million and reduce the fossil energy research and development account by \$50 million. The PILT program was established to address the fact that the federal government does not pay taxes on its own land. The program provides payments to rural local governments in counties with large percentages of federal land to compensate for lost property tax revenue. Proponents argue that PILT has never approximated the revenue that local governments would otherwise generate through private property taxes. Despite an increase that was offered three years ago in the PILT authorization levels, the actual appropriation has been kept nearly level (taking inflation into account), resulting in a revenue shortfall to local communities in real terms. The remaining \$30 million will be allocated towards deficit reduction. **Staff Contact: Eric Olson (Sanders), x5-4115**

**Messrs. Skaggs and Fox** may offer an amendment to increase funding for energy conservation programs by \$40 million and reduce funding for various programs by an equal amount. Specifically, the amendment increases low-income weatherization assistance funding by \$16 million, state energy grants by \$4 million, the building equipment technology fund by \$10 million, industry sector programs by \$5 million, and transportation programs by \$5 million. To offset those increases, the bill reduces funding for BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program by \$1 million, the DOE's oil technology program by \$13.5 million, and the DOE's fossil energy program by \$30 million. **Staff Contact: Stan Sloss (Skaggs), x5-2161; Brian Tynan (Fox), x5-6111**

**Mr. Young (AK)** may offer an amendment, debatable for 30 minutes, to extend the current moratorium on the federal takeover of fisheries management of certain navigable waters by the state of Alaska until October 1, 2000. **Staff Contact: Chris Fluhr, x5-2761**

**A Member** may offer an amendment to strike limits in the bill on the use of Forest Service and Interior Department funds for Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. The bill currently establishes a four-month deadline by which the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) must (1) prepare a report on the social and economic impacts of regional management of the watershed; (2) distribute the scientific findings that are relevant to the Forest Service and BLM; and (3) close project offices. The bill also requires that scientific findings developed by the project be integrated into the resource management plans of all Forest Service and BLM planning units.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #19, July 17, 1998.



## H.R. 1689—Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 1689 under suspension of the rules after it completes consideration of H.R. 4193. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** The bill requires all class-action lawsuits involving nationally traded securities to be prosecuted in federal court. The legislation is a result of the 1995 reform law (Private Securities Litigation Reform Act; *P.L. 104-67*) that created national standards to govern such class action suits in an effort to curb frivolous lawsuits. Since the law was enacted, many cases have been filed in state courts in order to avoid the new restrictions. The Senate passed companion legislation, S. 1260, by a vote of 79-21 on May 13, 1998. CBO estimates that enactment of the bill will result in additional Securities Exchange Commission spending of \$347 million over FY 1999 and FY 2000, but that the agency will collect \$375 million in fees in FY 1999 to offset that spending. The bill was introduced by Mr. White and Ms. Eshoo and was reported by the Commerce Committee by voice vote.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #19, July 17, 1998.



## H.R. 4194—FY 1999 VA/HUD Appropriations Act

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 4194 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1689. Last Friday, the House completed general debate and began consideration of amendments under an open rule. The rule waives points of order against the bill for containing measures within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee that were not reported by it. It also waives House rules prohibiting unauthorized appropriations, legislative measures in an appropriations bill, and reappropriations, except for the measure to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to restore fire retardant standards for children's sleepwear. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The rule permits the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 4194 appropriates \$94.4 billion in new budget authority—\$4.4 billion more than in FY 1998 (\$3.1 billion more in discretionary spending) and \$7.8 billion less than the president's request (because of \$7.7 billion in advance appropriation requests by the president)—for veterans benefits, housing programs, and various agencies dealing mostly with science, space, and the environment. A majority of these funds, \$71 billion, go toward discretionary spending programs, while the remaining \$22.3 million is mandatory spending (outside of the control of the Appropriations Committee).

A large portion of the bill's funding, \$42.3 billion, supports the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to provide extensive health, housing, education, and compensatory benefits to military veterans and their dependents. The measure provides \$26.6 billion for the Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD)—\$5.1 billion more than in FY 1998 and \$1.7 billion more than the president's request—including \$9.6 billion for Section 8 housing rental assistance. The bill increases funding for homeless assistance to \$975 million (a \$152 million increase) and provides \$4.7 billion for community development block grants. In addition, the measure increases the value of home mortgages that the Federal Housing Administration may insure from \$86,317 to \$109,032 in most areas of the country and from \$109,032 to \$197,620 in high cost areas.

H.R. 4194 provides \$7.4 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency (a \$59.6 million increase). This amount includes: (1) \$656.5 million for EPA research and development (a \$25.5 million increase); (2) \$1.5 billion for Superfund cleanup work, which includes \$75 million for the “brownfields” program; (3) \$1.25 billion for clean water state revolving funds and \$775 million for safe drinking water state revolving funds; and (4) \$817.3 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The measure also provides \$13.3 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), including (1) \$3.1 billion for the space shuttle program, (2) \$2.1 billion for the International Space Station, (3) \$1.35 billion for the Earth Observing System, and (4) \$3.6 billion for the National Science Foundation. Finally, the measure eliminates funding for the AmeriCorps program.

The bill replaces the 1937 United States Housing Act—the basis of all federal housing programs—with a new housing framework (essentially the House-passed version of H.R. 2, the Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act) and consolidates into a new block grant program the existing programs through which tenant-based rental assistance is currently provided through Section 8 certificates and vouchers.

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 4194 will result in outlays of \$52.5 billion in FY 1999, \$22.5 billion in FY 2000, \$9.6 billion in FY 2001, \$3.9 billion in FY 2002, and \$4.1 billion in FY 2003 and future years. The bill was submitted by Mr. Lewis (CA); the Appropriations Committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote on June 24, 1998.

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. The Clinton Administration has threatened to veto the bill if it is not modified from its present form. Specifically, the administration opposes (1) the funding reductions for certain programs, including the AmeriCorps program; (2) bill language placing restrictions on the EPA; and (3) the Leach-Lazio housing amendment in its present form.

**Amendments:** On Friday, the House began consideration of amendments under an open rule. At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 4194:

**Mr. Allen** may offer an amendment to clarify that committee report language restricting a number of EPA activities does not apply to EPA regulatory determinations for mercury emissions from utilities. The committee report directs the EPA to complete various studies before issuing rules limiting mercury emissions from utilities. The EPA recently issued two reports to Congress addressing mercury emissions and in April 1998, the agency announced it intended to make a regulatory determination about supplemental controls on utility mercury emissions by November 15, 1998. The Appropriations Committee believes that there is insufficient scientific understanding of mercury and that additional time is needed before the EPA finalizes any regulatory determinations. However, the sponsor contends that the language impedes the EPA's ability to address this issue and impedes



the public's right to know how much mercury their local utility releases into the air each year. *Staff Contact: Stella Livanios, x5-6116*

**Mr. Bereuter** may offer an amendment (#1) to reduce the total funding for the Office of the EPA Administrator by \$15 million. *Staff Contact: Allen Feyerherm, x5-4806*

**Mr. Bereuter** may offer one of two amendments (#2 or #20) to:

- \* prohibit the use of EPA funds to continue implementing treatment requirements for copper levels in drinking water until certain studies are completed by the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control. Upon completing the studies, the EPA may then establish an appropriate copper level based on the studies' results; and
- \* prohibit the use of EPA funds to implement or enforce any national primary drinking water regulation for copper. The sponsor of the amendment maintains that the EPA is implementing a rule on copper concentrations in drinking water that is not supported by available scientific evidence. *Staff Contact: Allen Feyerherm, x5-4806*

**Mr. Bereuter** may offer an amendment (#3 or #21) to prohibit the use of EPA funds to propose, promulgate, or implement any rule that requires public water systems that rely on groundwater to use disinfection. The sponsor contends that, since the statutory deadline for the groundwater rule is May 2002, the amendment simply prevents the EPA from hastily promulgating a rule that is not based on sound science. *Staff Contact: Allen Feyerherm, x5-4806*

**Mr. Engel** may offer an amendment (#28) to express the sense of Congress that public water systems supplied by surface water sources that are required to use water filtration to meet federal drinking water standards should be allowed to apply to the EPA to use alternative means of meeting drinking water standards. *Staff Contact: Oliver Kellman, x5-2464*

**Mr. Greenwood** may offer an amendment (#13) to clarify that the bill language that prohibits implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change does not prevent any action that is authorized by current law. *Staff Contact: Judy Borger, x5-4276*

**Mr. Gutierrez** may offer an amendment (#4) to enable members or former members of a reserve component (National Guard and reserves) to access sexual trauma counseling and treatment at VA facilities in the same manner as other former military personnel. In addition, the amendment reauthorizes the VA sexual trauma counseling program through December 31, 2002. *Staff Contact: Mark Fine, x5-8203*

**Mr. Hinchey** may offer an amendment (#22) to prohibit the use of VA funds to implement the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation system (VERA). VERA was established to provide medical care funding to regions across the country in a more equitable fashion. The system was created in response to findings that indicated the veteran population is shifting to different parts of the country but health care dollars are not. The VA's plan employs an allocation formula that ties funding for each of the 22 geographic regions to the numbers of veterans they actually serve. Some lawmakers fear that the Northeast and Midwest (where the veterans population is decreasing) may lose funding and subsequently result in a decrease in both the quantity and quality of health care. *Contact: x5-6335*

**Mrs. Kelly** may offer an amendment to require the Veterans Secretary to make available \$20 million for Veterans Integrated Service Network-3 (VISN-3; which covers the New York area) in the form of a one-time credit toward funding reductions required under the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation system. A General Accounting Office study revealed that the VISN-3 director returned \$20 million of the FY 1997 budget to Washington, at the same time the Office of the Medical Inspector found more than 156 separate health and safety violations. Further, none of the \$20 million was credited toward the network's total funding reduction required by the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation system. The committee report urges the VA Secretary to make the one-time credit. *Staff Contact: Al Garesche, x5-5441*

**Mr. Riggs** may offer an amendment to prohibit funds in the bill from being used to implement the San Francisco ordinance that requires groups doing business with the city to provide domestic-partner benefits to their employees. The ordinance, adopted last year, resulted in the Salvation Army (which provided beds and meals to AIDS patients) losing its funding because the group refused to comply with the ordinance. The sponsor of the amendment maintains that federal funds should not be used as a threat to force private groups and businesses to adopt policies they find morally objectionable. *Staff Contact: Mark Davis, x5-3311*

**Mr. Roemer** may offer an amendment (#5) to effectively eliminate funding for the international space station program. Specifically, the amendment reduces funding for the project by \$1.6 billion (leaving \$500 million available for close-out costs). In 1993, NASA indicated the space station would cost \$17.4 billion; however, that figure has continued to rise over the past five years. An independent review ordered by NASA recently stated that the project may cost \$24.7 billion. Congress has generally supported NASA's plan to build a permanently occupied space station in Earth orbit where astronauts will live and conduct research. NASA expects that research performed in the near-zero gravity environment of the space station will result in new discoveries in life sciences, biomedicine, and materials sciences. However, some lawmakers question why a space station is needed, how much it will cost, the degree to which it is dependent on Russian participation, and whether Russia can fulfill those commitments. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

**Mrs. Roukema** may offer an amendment (#16) to permit Section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts to be renewed at the lower of either the current rents or the HUD fair market rent. Current law permits renewal of such contracts only at the "base rent," which covers only operating expenses and not its debt service, thus placing owners of moderate rehabilitation projects (who may be struggling to pay debt service or finance the purchase of the project) in the position of whether or not to continue providing low-income housing. The sponsor of the amendment is concerned that the "base rent" requirement threatens the availability of affordable housing for low-income families. *Staff Contact: Chris Brinson, x-5-4465*

**Mr. Sanford** may offer an amendment (#6, #17, or #26) to freeze the funding level for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) research and related activities account at the FY 1998 level (\$2.5 billion). The bill currently increases funding for the account by \$199.3 million. The intent of the amendment is to encourage the NSF to establish a priority system for awarding research grants and thus avoid awarding frivolous grants. *Staff Contact: Scott English, x5-3176*

**Mr. Scarborough** may offer an amendment to prohibit funds in the bill from be used to carry out Executive Order 13083. Issued on June 14, 1998, the executive order outlines a series of new "Federalism Policymaking Criteria" that federal agencies must follow when formulating and

implementing policies that have federalism implications. The sponsor of the amendment contends that the order establishes broad but ambiguous and possibly unconstitutional tests to justify federal intervention in state and local matters. *Staff Contact: Jennifer Hemingway, x5-4136*

**Mr. Stearns** may offer an amendment (#27) to ensure that no Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) funds may be used to implement the American Heritage Rivers Initiative. The project, which is coordinated by the CEQ, is a Clinton Administration program initiated in 1997 to grant federal recognition to and coordinate federal aid for restoring locally-nominated rivers. On June 16, 1998, the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee recommended 10 rivers for designation as American Heritage Rivers to the president. Supporters of the project argue that the program is voluntary and a worthwhile endeavor to support local efforts to enhance and restore rivers around the nation. However, critics of the initiative contend that this is yet another federal effort that may well infringe on the prerogatives of local governments and the property rights of private landowners to manage the use of the land. *Staff Contact: Jennifer Scott, x5-5744*

**Mr. Tiahrt** may offer an amendment (#7) to ensure that \$12.5 million of the funding appropriated for VA medical and prosthetic research (\$310 million for FY 1999) be made available for research on Gulf War illnesses. *Staff Contact: Jeff Kahrs, x5-6216*

**Mr. Tiahrt** may offer an amendment (#8) to ensure that \$25 million of the funding allocated for VA medical and prosthetic research (\$310 million for FY 1999) be made available for research on Gulf War illnesses. *Staff Contact: Jeff Kahrs, x5-6216*

**Mr. Vento** may offer an amendment (#10) to increase funding for the emergency food and shelter program by \$30 million and offset the increase by reducing funding for the international space station program by \$43.5 million. The remaining funds will be allocated toward deficit reduction. *Staff Contact: Mark Smith, x5-6631*

**Mr. Vento** may offer an amendment (#11) to increase funding for the emergency food and shelter program by \$30 million and offset the increase by reducing funding for National Science Foundation research by \$107.4 million. The remaining funds will be allocated toward deficit reduction. *Staff Contact: Mark Smith, x5-6631*

**Mr. Waxman** may offer an amendment to clarify that certain bill provisions and committee report language restricting various EPA and Council on Environmental Quality actions does not prevent any action that is authorized by current law. Specifically, the restrictions in the bill will not apply to:

- \* developing or proposing regulations or rules prior to issuance. The measure currently prohibits funds in the bill from being used to develop, propose, or issue rules, regulations, decrees, or orders for the purpose of implementing the Kyoto Protocol on climate change;
- \* conducting educational outreach or informational seminars. The committee report directs the EPA and CEQ to refrain from conducting educational outreach or informational seminars on policies underlying the Kyoto Protocol until the Senate ratifies it. The committee expressed concern in the report that the EPA may be engag-

ing in activity that is tantamount to lobbying in an effort to build public support for implementing the protocol;

- \* using “brownfields” funds. The bill currently stipulates that brownfields funds may be used *only* for site assessments, developing brownfields and voluntary cleanup programs, and related EPA personnel and administrative costs;
- \* issuing regulatory determinations for mercury emissions. The committee report directs the EPA to complete various studies before issuing rules limiting mercury emissions from utilities;
- \* using dredging as a remediation tool. The committee report directs the EPA to delay actions that allow dredging to be used as a remedial tool for removing contaminated sediments that contain PCBs in certain waters, until a study has been completed, distributed, and analyzed by all interested parties and Congress.
- \* implementing the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). The committee report directs the EPA to (1) establish public notice and comment when developing its pesticide residue risk assessment policies, (2) devote additional resources to increase the pace of registration actions and emergency exemptions, and (3) minimize the resources needed to review and issue emergency exemptions. The committee is concerned that EPA is not implementing the FQPA in a manner which expedites the registration of new pesticides, ensures the use of reliable data in calculating exposure to pesticide residues, and clearly explains the legal and scientific basis for its policies;
- \* implementing the regional haze program. The committee report recommends that the EPA fund the activities of up to eight multi-state visibility transport commissions (VTC), and that these VTCs prepare and begin implementing appropriate, comprehensive work plans, with a goal of completion by March 1, 1999. The committee expressed concern that the EPA is moving forward with a national rule on regional haze without adequately completing its obligations under the Clean Air Act;
- \* applying cleanup requirements for facilities licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The committee report directs the EPA to continue its longstanding policy of not applying cleanup requirements for NRC-licensed and to spend no funds to enforce cleanup requirements at sites being remediated under regulatory requirements enforced through the NRC licensing procedure. ***Staff Contact: Greg Dotson, x5-3976***

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #18, July 10, 1998.



PLEASE NOTE: UNDER AN OPEN RULE, MEMBERS MAY OFFER ENTIRELY NEW AMENDMENTS TO A BILL AT ANY TIME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN PRE-PRINTED IN THE *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*.